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## **SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION**

### **PALLET**

#### **Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates to pallets and in particular to a multi-purpose pallet having detachable components.

#### **Background of the Invention**

[0002] Pallets made of wood are typically used throughout the world for easy storing and transporting of goods. These pallets are generally of a square shape having an upper and lower deck made of a series of wooden planks and at least two solid wooden beams therebetween. The pallet is normally nailed together and includes slots within which a forklift's tines or other material handling devices can be located for lifting and moving the pallet.

[0003] Known pallets suffer from many disadvantages. For example, they

- are expensive to manufacture;
- require repeated repair;
- are limited to standard sizes;
- have protruding fixings or connections;
- are limited in the amount they can carry;
- are easy to damage or break;
- are heavy;
- are difficult to attach to additional components when required;
- absorb moisture, liquids and odors;
- are a fire risk;
- can have termite and insect contamination;
- splinter easily;
- have nails that can loosen; and
- have a short life span, and the timber used for them is generally from hardwood forests.